

## Medicare and the Marketplace



***Information about the Marketplace  
for counseling SHIIP clients***

*SHIIP Spring Update 2014*

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## The Marketplace and People with Medicare

- This presentation will help you to explain the Marketplace to people
  - With Medicare
  - Aging into Medicare
  - Getting Social Security disability benefits
- When they may get coverage in the Marketplace, and when they can't
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D)
- Relation to Medicare supplements

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## **If I have Medicare, do I need anything else?**

- Medicare isn't part of the Marketplace
- If you have Medicare (Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage) you're covered and don't need to do anything related to the Marketplace

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## **Can I get a Marketplace plan in addition to Medicare?**

- It's against the law for someone who knows you have Medicare to sell you a Marketplace plan
  - Even if you only have Part A or Part B
- Marketplace doesn't offer Medigap or Part D plans
- Marketplace plans are not designed to coordinate with Medicare

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## Medicare and the Marketplace (Continued)

- If you retire before you're 65
  - You may use the Marketplace to buy a plan until you become Medicare eligible
  - You might qualify for premium tax credits and lower cost sharing
- Approaching age 65 you need to coordinate cancelling Marketplace plan and starting Medicare to avoid coverage gap

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## What if I become eligible for Medicare after I join a Marketplace plan?

- You can get a Marketplace plan before your Medicare coverage begins
  - You may cancel the plan when Medicare coverage starts, or
  - You may keep the plan, but once your Part A coverage starts you won't be able to get lower costs
  - Plans are not required to give notice as members approach Medicare eligibility
- Sign up for Medicare during your Initial Enrollment Period or you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Medicare

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## Can I choose Marketplace coverage instead of Medicare?

- Only possible in limited situations
  - You're eligible but you haven't enrolled in Medicare yet because
    - you'd have to pay a premium, or
    - because you're not collecting Social Security benefits yet
  - You've enrolled in Medicare and are paying a premium for Part A, and you drop Part A and Part B
- Important considerations
  - A late enrollment penalty may apply if you decide to enroll in Medicare later, after your initial enrollment period ends
  - Generally you can enroll **only** during the Medicare general enrollment period (January 1 to March 31, coverage July 1)

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## Are Marketplace options different if I am on Medicare based on a disability?

- You may qualify for Medicare based on a disability
  - You must be entitled to Social Security disability insurance benefits for 24 months
- If you're getting Social Security Disability benefits, you can get a Marketplace plan to cover you during your 24 month waiting period
  - May qualify for premium tax credits and reduced cost-sharing until your Medicare coverage starts
- At 25<sup>th</sup> month you qualify for Medicare and Marketplace options are the same as people 65+

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## If I have Medicare, can I get health coverage from an employer through Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP)?

- Medicare Secondary Payer rules apply
- You may delay your Part B enrollment
  - You'll have Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to sign up for Part B
    - Any time you're still covered based on your/your spouses' current employment
    - During 8-month period after employment/coverage ends
  - If you don't sign up for Part B during the SEP
    - You may have to pay a late enrollment penalty as long as you have Medicare
    - You can only enroll during the General Enrollment Period

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## Is Marketplace drug coverage creditable for Medicare Part D?

- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D)
  - Prescription drug coverage in Marketplace plans (including SHOP) isn't required to be creditable
  - Plan is required to let you know each year by September 30, in writing, if drug coverage is creditable

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## Can I get a stand-alone dental plan through the Marketplace?

- Stand-alone dental coverage for adults
  - Covered by some Marketplace plans
  - Medicare beneficiaries in states where the Marketplace is run by the federal government will not be able to buy a Marketplace stand-alone dental plan

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## Check Your Knowledge – Scenario 1

Jim has Medicare Part A only. He didn't enroll in Part B during his Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). He signed up for Part B in January 2014, during the General Enrollment Period, and his coverage will begin on July 1.

Can he enroll in a Marketplace plan while he waits for his Part B to take effect?



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## Check Your Knowledge – Scenario 2

Barbara works part-time and isn't getting Social Security retirement benefits yet. Her employer doesn't offer health coverage, so she enrolled in a Marketplace plan. Her Medicare Initial Enrollment Period ends next month, but she's decided to keep her Marketplace plan and wait to sign up for Medicare.

Will Barbara have a late enrollment penalty when she signs up for Medicare Part B? What about Part D? What else should you tell her?



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## Marketplace.cms.gov

Qualified Health Plans	Medicare Supplement Insurance
No Underwriting--guaranteed coverage	Underwriting--after open enrollment period
Guaranteed Renewable	Guaranteed Renewable

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## Who can help my clients with Marketplace questions?

### Non-Medicare:

- Navigators  
Shiptools/Resources/Other Resources/  
Health Insurance Marketplace
- Certified Application Counselors  
<https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/>

### Medicare:

- SHIP!!

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